

GAZETTEER OF FLYING SITES IN THE UK & IRELAND Part 3



BEDFORD (CARDINGTON): (above right)

As with other airship stations, this was a large site and it had sidings that connected the airship construction works to the Bedford & Hitchin Branch railway that formed its eastern and northern boundaries. The single airship shed was joined by a second, brought from Pulham, during the 1920s.

BEDFORD (CARDINGTON): (right)

Taken from the south east, this 1918 photograph shows the camouflaged added to the rigid airship shed and its wind screens. The fabrication buildings can be seen behind the shed, as can the gasometers (one full, one almost empty).

BEDFORD Technical & Domestic Sites

Stations with similar functions had similar buildings on their technical sites and it is intended to provide examples; the first being for this, a typical airship construction station. The majority of staff was civilian, who travelled in on a daily basis (hence the cycle sheds and canteens), with the limited RAF presence occupying huts on the north-western corner of the station. The key for the accompanying plan is as follows:

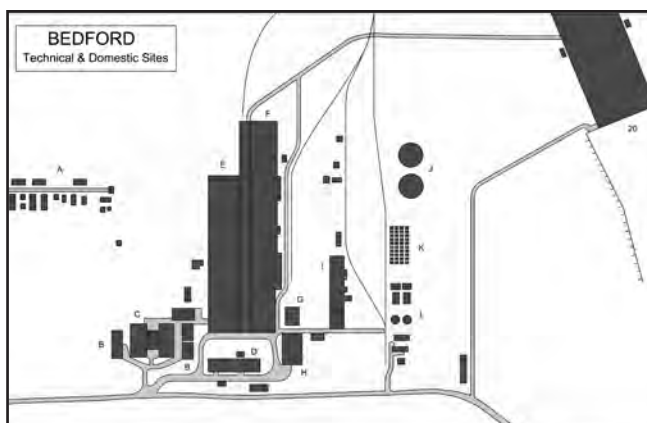
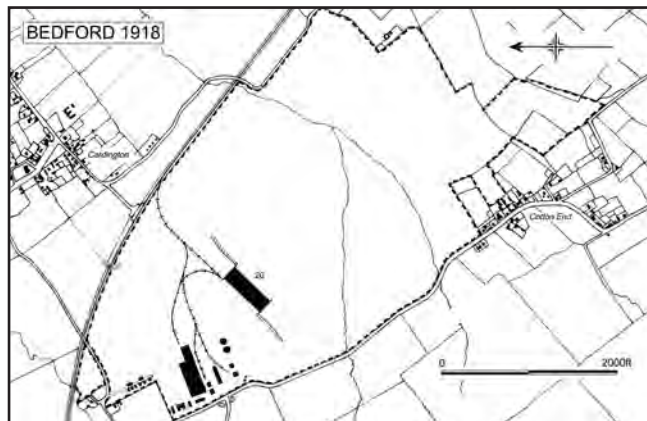
- A Quarters for RAF personnel
- B Cycle shed
- C Dining rooms & canteens
- D General offices
- E Gondola shop & sheet metal works
- F Storage for girders, balloon gas testing room & completing room
- G Electric plant
- H Garage
- I Metal rolling shop (duralumin)
- J Gasometers
- K Hydrogen storage for cylinders
- L Gas making plant

The Symbols & Key for Aeroplane Sheds and Hangars appear in Part 2 on page GFS-009

The following are now added:

- 23 1917 pattern GS shed (brick), 170 x 80 feet
- 24 USN pattern HP shed, 222 x 75 feet
- 25 Former civilian sheds
- 26 Seaplane storage sheds (various sizes)

BEAULIEU: (left) This overhead view of the original technical site at Beaulieu was taken from a machine of 16 RS on 30 April 1917. See page GFS-016. :RAF AL000098



BEDFORD (Cardington)	3 miles from Bedford railway station
147/153 : TL 085465 : Bedfordshire : 1064 acres : 3150 x 230 yards.	
Airship Construction Station RNAS/RAF leased to Short Bros for the construction of rigid airships 1917 – continued in service.	
One Airship Shed 700 x 180 x 110 feet.	
Note – The rigid airship shed was joined, in 1928, by that of similar measurements from Pulham. Both survive today.	
3 Group, Midland Area 1918	

BEDDINGTON see **CROYDON**

BEDFIELD	1½ miles from Warlingworth railway station
137/156 : TM 214668 : Suffolk : 38 acres : 500 x 300 yards.	
HD NLG 2nd for 51 (HD) Sqn and 75 (HD) Sqn RFC/RAF 4.1916† – 6.1919.	
7th Wing, Eastern Group Command 4.1916 : 50th Wing, HD Group, Midland Area, VI Brigade 1918	